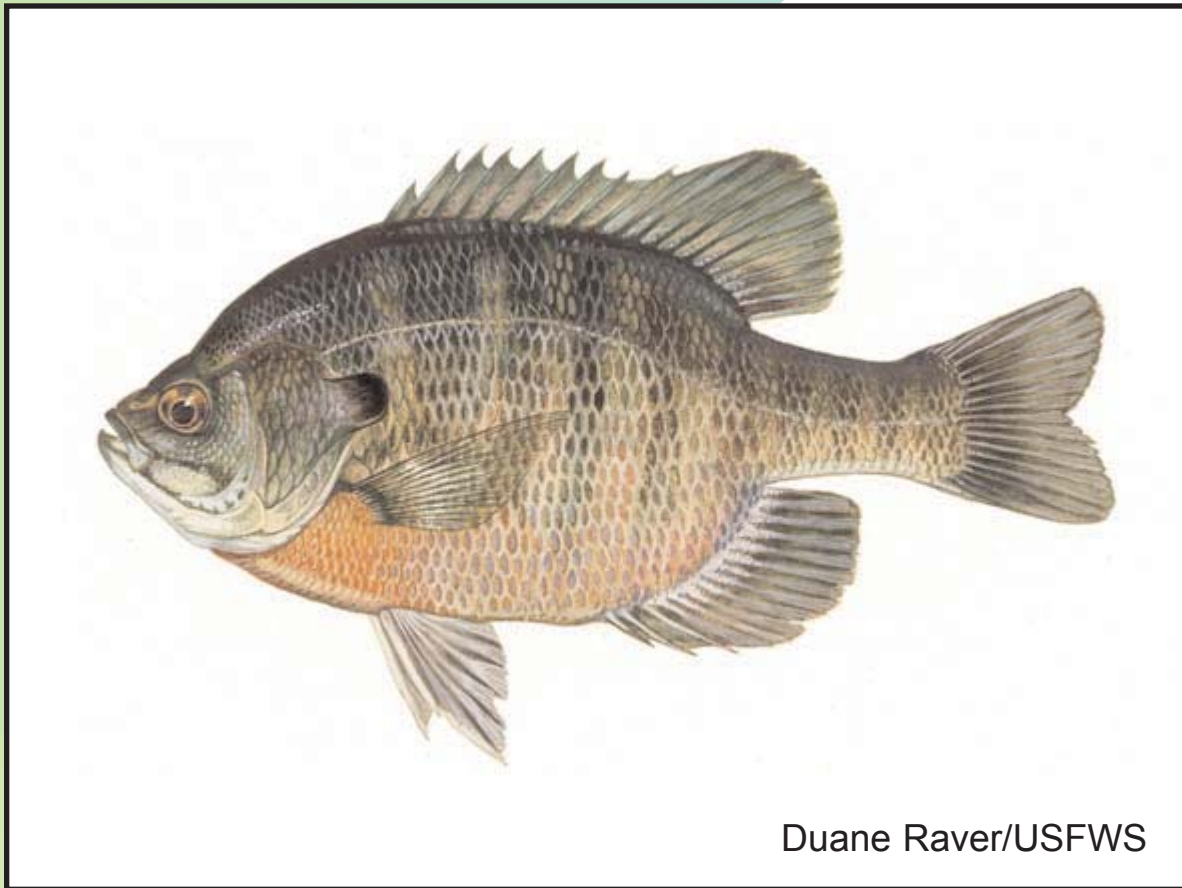


Bluegill



Duane Raver/USFWS

GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

BLUEGILL

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ adults up to 12 inches long; rounded oval shape
- ◆ flap covering the gills has a blue edge (giving this fish its name)
- ◆ olive in color often with golden iridescence; may have vertical stripes



Where to Look

Bluegill are found in freshwater lakes, ponds, streams and rivers. They travel in schools and use aquatic vegetation for cover.

What It Eats.

Bluegill feed on aquatic insects, insect larvae and small fish. They will also eat aquatic snails and crayfish.



Life Cycle

Bluegill spawn or lay their eggs in nests, a depressions in the mud or gravel bottom, usually in shallow water. They can lay up to 60,000 eggs. The male protects the nest until the eggs hatch.

Who Eats It?

Bluegill are eaten by larger fish, aquatic birds



Did You Know...

Bluegill are sometimes called bream and are a popular game fish.

Role in the Ecosystem

Bluegill are important in aquatic food chains. They also help keep insect pests like mosquitoes in check.